

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
UTILITY DIVISION  
AGENDA NO. 04-11-30**

Date Published: November 24, 2004  
For Work Week Commencing: November 29, 2004  
Commission Meeting: November 30, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. D2004.10.170 and D2004.11.176 – Qwest Corporation, SBC Long Distance, Northstar Telecom, Inc. – Discuss and receive direction on recently filed Triennial Review Order and USTA II decision amendments to interconnection agreements. (11/30/04)
2. D97.9.167 - Qwest – High Cost Modeling/Universal Service Funds – Discuss and get any necessary Commission direction on how Qwest uses

federal universal service fund receipts associated with the high cost model support. (11/30/04)

**Other Meetings**

**11/30/04 10:30 a.m. – Commission Meeting with Governor-Elect Brian Schweitzer – Provide brief overview of current regulatory issues (Bollinger Room)**

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. MDU Resources Group, Inc. D2004.11.190 (Eric)

On November 19, 2004, MDU applied for authority to issue over a two-year period \$125,000,000 of short-term indebtedness in the form of unsecured promissory notes representing bank borrowings ("Notes") and/or in the form of commercial paper ("Commercial Paper"). The authority is requested to be effective from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2006.

The proceeds of these issuances will be used for funding the Company's capital requirements, for the refunding of its outstanding obligations, for corporate development including the acquisition of businesses or business assets and for other general corporate purposes.

2. Qwest Communications N2004.11.189 (Scott)

On November 18, 2004 Qwest filed Tariff Transmittal 04-18 SwitchNet 56® (SN56). This filing revises the existing December 31, 2004 sunset date for Qwest SN56 product so a customer's final service date is directly associated

with the availability of comparable replacement. This filing has no rate or revenue impacts for customers or Qwest. Qwest is requesting a December 20, 2004, effective date.

3. Central Montana Communications, Inc                      N2004.11.191                      (Scott)

On November 22, 2004, Central Montana Communications (CMC) filed modification to its tariffs. In this filing CMC is requesting changes to 1) Local Network Access line Service, 2) Construction-Placement of Buried Facilities where a joint trench is available, and 3) Community Emergency services.

**Protective Orders – Notice Items** The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. The Commission will rule on the requests no earlier than 10 days after the publication date of this agenda. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Any person interested in seeking a copy of a protective order request should contact the Commission at 406-444-6199.

**Protective Orders – Information Items** The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM 38.2.5008.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

### **New Filings Received in Past Week**

D2004.11.187 – Ronan Telephone Company – Motion for Protective Order  
D2004.11.188 – Hot Springs Telephone Company – Motion for Protective Order  
N2004.11.189 – Qwest Corporation – Tariff Transmittal 04-18 SwitchNet 56 (SN56)  
D2004.11.190 – MDU Resources Group, Inc. – Application for Authorization to Issue Up to \$125, 000,000 of Promissory Notes and/or Commercial Paper  
N2004.11.191 – Central Montana Communications, Inc. – Revisions to Tariffs: Section 4, Pages 30 and 33; Section 11.6, Page 61; and Section 13, Page 67  
D2004.5.69 – Montana-Dakota Utilities – Application to Implement a Gas Cost Tracking Adjustment Change for December 2004

D2004.7.113 – NorthWestern Energy – December 1, 2004 Monthly Gas Cost  
Rate Adjustment

D2004.7.114 – NorthWestern Energy – December 1, 2004 Monthly Electric  
Default Supply Cost Rate Adjustment